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The cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants has spread greatly in recent years. The 1952 area of cultivation is 11 times that of 1949. Ten species were grown in 1949. This has increased to 63 species in 1952. Collectives in Caracal Rayon, for example, have successfully raised coriander and anise. A collective in Snagov Rayon obtained an excellent crop of dodder (*cuscuta*) and fennel. Hardy foxglove is grown on the Iaici State Farm in Arges Region. Other plants now widely cultivated include mustard, poppy, valerian, soapwort, belladonna, mint, camomile, and castor beans.(4) Medicinal plants, sugar beets, and other crops of commercial value are becoming more popular in Vidra Rayon.(5)

The cultivation of industrial plants has also expanded greatly in Iaio-mita Region. Flax grown on collective farms was 75-80 centimeters high in areas which were not hard hit by unfavorable weather conditions during the 1952 planting season. The sugar beet crop was successful wherever cultivation and thinning had occurred, but it was poor in rayons where this had been neglected. Sunflowers grew well where there were four cultivations, but they were stunted where weeds were allowed to grow. Cotton in the region did not come up to expectations in 1952 because of unfavorable weather and improper growing methods such as failure to weed and cultivate. Resowing in frost-damaged areas required 12-15 days. However, hot, rainy weather which followed hastened rapid sprouting and growth. Flax, likewise, was below expectations, because individually owned holdings were often overrun with wild mustard and raps.(6)

Among industrial crops, cotton is one of the most rapid gainers. The cotton area was 55 times as great in 1951 as in 1938. The Five-Year Plan calls for an area 100 times as large in 1955 as in 1938. The 1955 production of cotton is planned to be 794 percent of the 1950 total. Production in 1951 was 147.3 times that of 1950.(7)

Fruit raising is also on the increase. In the Buzau Region, for example, orchards and vineyards are spreading. In 1952, trees received good care, and pruning and spraying were on time.(8) Lugoj Rayon is making use of fallow lands along railroads and highways to plant poplar and fruit trees, both to provide more food and to serve as protection against drought. More than 30,000 poplar, mulberry, nut, and apple seedlings have been set along the highways and railroads from Lugoj to Ilic, from Lugoj to Caransebes, and from Lugoj to Topolovatul, on the Timisoara highway.(9)

The introduction of new plants has been studied not only in the food sector but also in forestry and lumber. The ICS (Institute for Forestry Research) has been looking for new sources of lumber to supplant the diminishing forests of Rumania. The institute expects to develop superior domestic varieties of trees and introduce new species from other countries. Many exotic species are now being grown at experiment stations. These include: *Quercus Borealis* Michaux, *Juglans nigra*, *Juniperus virginiana*, *Pseudotsuga taxifolia* Britt, *Robinia Pseudacacia*, *Morus alba*, and *Eucalyptus Viminalis* Labill. The first eucalyptus were planted on 7 December 1950. Of the various species, *Eucalyptus Viminalis* Labill proved most successful in the Rumanian climate.(10)

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SOURCES

1. Scanteia, 15 Jun 52
2. Universul, 28 Jun 52
3. Scanteia, 24 Jun 52
4. Ibid., 24 Jun 52
5. Viata Capitalei, Jun 52
6. Romania Libera, 18 Jun 52
7. Berlin, Ausserhandels Nachrichten, 30 Apr 52
8. Viata Sindicala, 8 Jun 52
9. Universul, 27 Jun 52
10. Revista Padurilor Lemnului Si Hartiei, Oct/Nov 51

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